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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/611,567

07/01/2003

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9281-4599

5991

7590

01/04/2005

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EXAMINER

/ ZEADE, BERTRAND

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2875

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/611,567

Applicant(s)

OHIZUMI ET AL.

Examiner

Bertrand Zeade

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohwada et al. (U.S.6692134).

Ohwada (6692134) discloses a surface-emitting device precisely positioned in the front of the LCD unit, and LCD having the surface-emitting device having:

Regarding claim 1 as shown in (figs.1-3), a bar-shaped light source (13), a light guiding plate (12) for entering a light of the light source (13) from a lateral end surface and emitting the light from an emissive surface, and a cover for supporting the bar-shaped light source (13a) and the light guiding plate (12), wherein the cover (15) is made of a metal plate (col.6, lines 25-27) having a spring characteristic, a substantially bracket-shaped cross sectional shape. As shown in (fig. 3), a width of the bracketshaped cover (15) on a side of an opening portion is smaller than the width on the opposite side, and the cover (15) covers the bar-shaped light source 13) and the

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light guiding plate (12) and pinches the light guiding plate (12) by the opening portion of the bracket-shaped cover, so as to make the bar-shaped light source (13) and the light guiding plate (12) into close contact and support the bar-shaped light source (13) and the light guide plate (12).

Regarding claim 2 as shown in (figs. 1-3), a protrudent portion is provided on an upper inner surface of the bracket-shaped cover (15) at a position corresponding to a top of the bar-shaped light source (13), so as to pinch the bar-shaped light source (13), and the opening portion of the bracket-shaped cover (15) pinches the light guiding plate (12), thereby making the bar-shaped light source (13) and the light guiding plate (12) into close contact and supporting the both bar-shaped light source (13) and the light guide late.

Regarding claim 3 as shown in (fig 3), a width of a distal end portion of the opening portion of the bracket-shaped cover (15) is larger than a narrowest width of the cover (15).

Regarding claim 4 as shown in (fig. 3), a reflective film (17) for reflecting a light from the light source (13) is provided in an inner surface of the metal plate which forms the cover (15), having the spring characteristic.

Regarding claim 5 as shown in (fig. 3) the metal plate which forms the cover (15), having the spring characteristic, is made of stainless steel with mirror finished surface by electrolytic polishing (col. 6, lines 25-27).

Regarding claim 6, the metal plate which forms the cover, having the spring characteristic, is made of chrome plated low alloy steel (col. 6, lines 25-27).

Regarding claim 7 as shown in (fig. 2-3), projections for pinching the lateral end portion of the light guiding plate (12) there between in the width direction are provided on the both ends of the cover (15) and by these projections. The light guiding plate (12) is positioned in the width direction.

Regarding claim 8 as shown in (figs. 2-3), protruding portions protruding in the width direction of the light guiding plate (12) are formed in both ends of the cover (15), projections are extended respectively from the protrudent portions one of in a longitudinal direction of the light guiding plate (12) and in a direction orthogonal to a longitudinal direction of the respective protrudent portions, and a space between the projections is substantially identical to the width of the light guiding plate (12).

Regarding claim 9 as shown in (figs.2-3), the projections (16a) serve as fit portions for fixing the surface emitting device (10) to a case.

Regarding claim 10 as shown in (figs.2-3), each of the projections (16a) is formed by a base extended from each end of the cover (15) in a thickness direction of

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the light guiding plate (12), a fit plate extended from a distal end of the base in a longitudinal direction of the light guiding plate (12), a hook portion extended from an outward side of the fit plate and bent upwardly at a connected portion with the fit plate, and a hooked projection bent upward from a distal end portion of the fit plate.

Regarding claim 11 as shown in (figs. 2-3), the surface emitting device (10) is provided in front of a liquid crystal display element (12).


Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bertrand Zeade whose telephone number is 571-272-2387. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571-272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Bertrand Zeade
Examiner
Art Unit 2875


Stephen Husar
Primary Examiner